Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

With reference to Fig, 2, appliances ~~22~~ connect to the device 20 through an appliance interface 34. The appliance interface 34 is preferably adapted for use with one or more appliances or types of appliances and may be adapted to conform with appliance hardware standards and/or software protocols for remote operation thereof. The interface module 34, implemented in hardware and/or software, is the physical module with which appliances connect via electrical connectors 36. Interface 34 is controlled by a main program module 35 which selects the commands to be sent to each appliance. Interface module 34 also produces the correct voltage and current needed to communicate with the appliances. For example, if the user wishes to communicate with a PC via the RS232 protocol, then translation of digital commands produced by the main program module 35 into actual +/-12 volt pulses (as required by the RS232 protocol) will be performed by the interface module 34. Command sets corresponding to each of the appliances is maintained by the main program module 35. An example of such interface adaptability is found in conventional universal remote control devices for use with entertainment systems where the remote control device may be trained by the user to cooperate with appliances and/or includes a library of known appliances and specific commands corresponding to such applications. In the latter instance the user selects the library of commands that corresponds to the appliances. The connection leads 36 between the appliance and the interface may vary and include, but are not limited to, wire, infrared, serial, or bus connections. In an alternative embodiment, the appliances may be assembled with the interface module 34 and may include any number of conventional interface configurations.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The handwriting recognizer 44 receives symbols provided by the user through handwriting pad 46. The handwriting pad 46 is preferably located in a position convenient for the driver such as on the steering wheel or on the gearshift. Alternatively, handwriting

commands may be input via an external touchpad, such as a laptop's touchpad connected to device 20. A handwriting recognizer of the type suitable for this purpose is disclosed in U.S Patent Nos. 5,659,633, and 5,774,582, 6,023,529 and 5,982,929 and U.S. Patent Applications Nos. 08/528293, 08/418530, 08/282187 and, 08/878741, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference. It will be appreciated that handwritten symbols corresponding to appliance commands may be trained by the user and/or provided in a pre-trained library of application specific commands.